

Remarks

The lengthy specification has been reviewed as suggested by the Examiner. Several paragraphs have been amended to correct minor errors. Also replacement sheets of drawings with Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 10, 12, 13 and 14 are presented containing corrections to reference numerals. Sheets of Figure showing the changes made in red also is presented for the Examiner's convenience.

The application has been carefully considered in view of the Examiner's action of May 21, 2004. However, Claims 1-14 are resubmitted unamended (except for a spelling correction in Claim 9) as Applicants consider that these claims patentably distinguish from the art cited and applied by the Examiner. A new independent Claim 15 is presented that is similar to Claim 1 but omits the recitation of a cutter for cutting the continuous media into sheets.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freund, et al (DE 199 29 272) in view of Schaller, et al (US 5, 360, 161). Claims 2, 4, 5, 8 and 12-14 are currently withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic or linking claim.

1. Freund, et al is said to disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for a two-axis cutter. This is not the case as Freund, et al also lack any disclosure of the following additional elements recited in Claim1:

- a printer having a printing width twice the width of a first print size and at least equal to the width of a second larger print size;
- an image processor for digitizing and arranging images to be printed in at least a 2x2 matrix;
- a first cutter for cutting a continuous feed media into sheets; and
- the image processor controlling a two-axis cutter for cutting each sheet into individual prints of at least two different sizes.

2. Freund, et al, disclose an inkjet printer and control electronics capable only of full width printing. For example, in the embodiment of Figure 2, either of two different width paper webs can be selected but in both cases the printer is said to print full width (page 3, lines 1-2). Thus, there is no disclosure of a printer "having a printing width greater than twice the width of a first print size, and at least equal to the width of a second larger print size."

As understood, the control electronics 54 of the reference also allows only for full width printing of the paper web 14 (see page 9, lines 8-18) so there is no "image processor ...arranging the digitized images for printing in a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes." The reference also mentions minimizing the spacing between successive images on the web (see page 9, lines 19-23) which further indicates that the control electronics 54 provides only for the printing of a succession of full width prints along the web and not "a 2x2 matrix prints of at least two different sizes" as set out in Applicants' Claim 1.

A single cross cutter 345 is disclosed to separate individual prints from the continuous web; and an edge trimmer 351 trims the longitudinal edges to produce a borderless print. Accordingly there is no first cutter to separate the web into sheets containing a matrix of prints and, as the Examiner agrees, no two-axis cutter to separate the sheet into individual prints.

The control electronics 54 of the reference is said to control the cross cutting of the knife 345 (for separating individual prints from the web). However this is in the context of separating individual full width prints and not for separating a sheet containing a matrix of prints let alone a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes as recited in Claim 1.

3. Schaller, et al disclose photographs arranged on a sheet in a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes as produced from a single exposure of a single negative on a single strip of paper with several lenses (Column 1, lines 9-12). While this reference does disclose a cutter for cutting a 2x2 matrix of prints into individual prints, there is no mention of what control is used to operate the

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Applicants have obtained a translation of Freund, et al (DE 199 29 272) and enclose a copy for the Examiner.

1. Freund, et al is said to disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for a two-axis cutter. This is not the case as Freund, et al also lack any disclosure of the following additional elements recited in Claim1:

- a printer having a printing width twice the width of a first print size and at least equal to the width of a second larger print size;
- an image processor for digitizing and arranging images to be printed in at least a 2x2 matrix;
- a first cutter for cutting a continuous feed media into sheets; and

- the image processor controlling a two-axis cutter for cutting each sheet into individual prints of at least two different sizes.

2. Freund, et al, disclose an inkjet printer and control electronics capable only of full width printing. For example, in the embodiment of Figure 2, either of two different width paper webs can be selected but in both cases the printer is said to print full width (page 3, lines 1-2). Thus, there is no disclosure of a printer "having a printing width greater than twice the width of a first print size, and at least equal to the width of a second larger print size."

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The control electronics 54 of the reference is said to control the cross cutting of the knife 345 (for separating individual prints from the web). However this is in the context of separating individual full width prints and not for separating a sheet containing a matrix of prints let alone a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes as recited in Claim 1.

3. Schaller, et al disclose photographs arranged on a sheet in a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes as produced from a single exposure of a

single negative on a single strip of paper with several lenses (Column 1, lines 9-12). While this reference does disclose a cutter for cutting a 2x2 matrix of prints into individual prints, there is no mention of what control is used to operate the cutter. The reference does not mention anything about a cutter for cutting a continuous feed media into sheets or an image processor digitizing and arranging images for printing in a 2x2 matrix or that the two-axis cutter is controlled by the image processor digitizing and arranging the images for printing.

While Schaller, et al may disclose a two-axis cutter, it certainly does not supply any of the elements missing from the Freund, et al disclosure as noted above at paragraph 1. Accordingly, the proposed combination resulting from merely adding the two-axis cutter of Schaller, et al to the Freund, et al system would still lack all the claimed elements first noted above at paragraph 1 and thus fall far short of the claimed invention.

4. Moreover, Applicants fail to recognize any motivation in either of the references for even attempting the combination proposed by the Examiner; namely, "to provide the device of Freund, et al with the two axis cutter as taught by Schaller, et al in order to facilitate cutting of individual photos of desired dimensions."

In the Freund, et al system, a continuous strip is printed with a succession of full width prints. The Freund, et al device includes a cutter for trimming and severing individual prints from the strip. There is nothing in Freund, et al suggesting the printing of "a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes."

Adding the Schaller, et al two axis cutter for separating prints from a sheet containing a 2x2 matrix of prints to the Freund, et al device would serve no useful purpose; Freund, et al have no 2x2 matrix of prints to cut let alone a 2x2 matrix containing prints of at least two different sizes. As the Freund, et al device produces prints of only one size (full width of the strip) there is no motivation for adding a cutter to "facilitate cutting of individual photos of desired dimensions" as suggested by the Examiner.

Given the deficiencies of Freund, et al and the lack of motivation to add a two-axis cutter to the Freund, et al system to facilitate cutting of individual photos of desired dimensions, the combination as proposed by the Examiner appears to have its genesis in Applicants' disclosure and not in the references themselves.

5. New Claim 15 is essentially Claim 1 without the requirement of a "cutter for cutting the continuous feed media into sheets, each sheet carrying the matrix of prints." Claim 15 retains the elements of the printer having the claimed printing width, the image processor controlling the digitizing and printing of the images in a 2x2 matrix of prints of at least two different sizes and a two-axis cutter for controlled by the image processor for cutting the sheet into individual prints. The omitted cutter is made the subject of new dependent Claim 16.

In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicants consider that the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Moreover, given the allowance of Claim 1, Claims 2-14 which all depend from Claim 1 also should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Aceto", written over a horizontal line.

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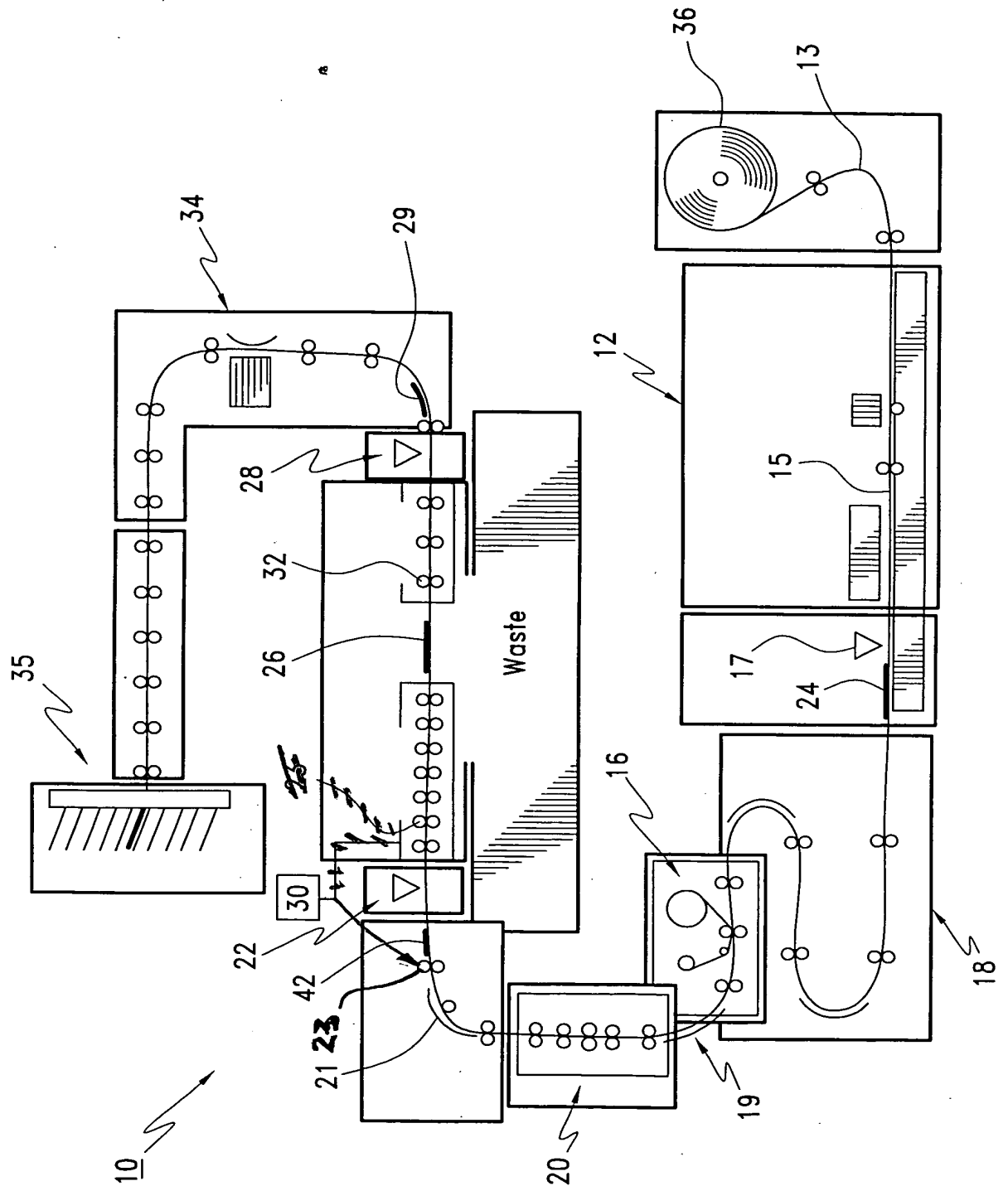


FIG. 2



Annotated Sheet

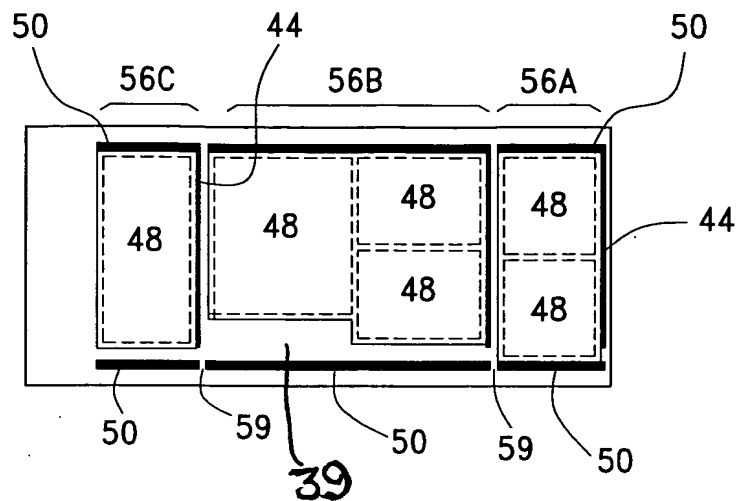


FIG. 5

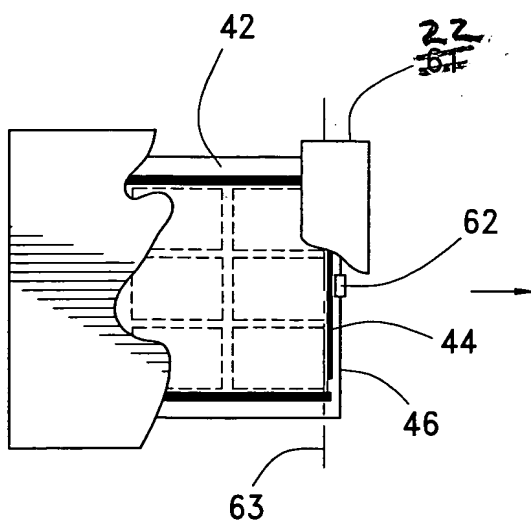
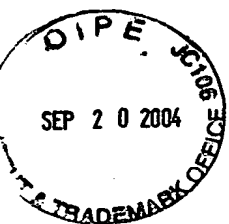


FIG. 6A



Applicant: Clark, Dave/Docket: 90952.000006
Title: DIGITAL PHOTOFINISHING METHOD AND
APPARATUS

Annotated Sheet

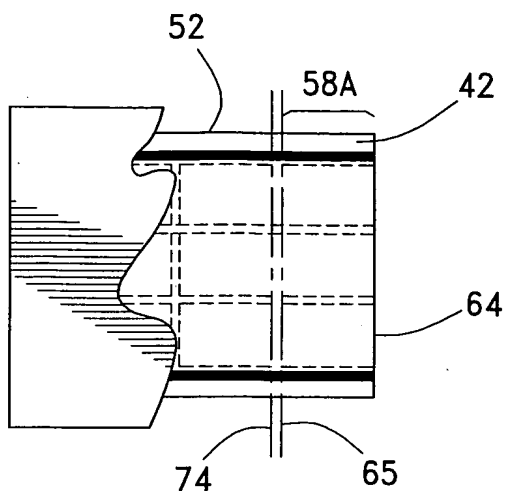


FIG. 6B

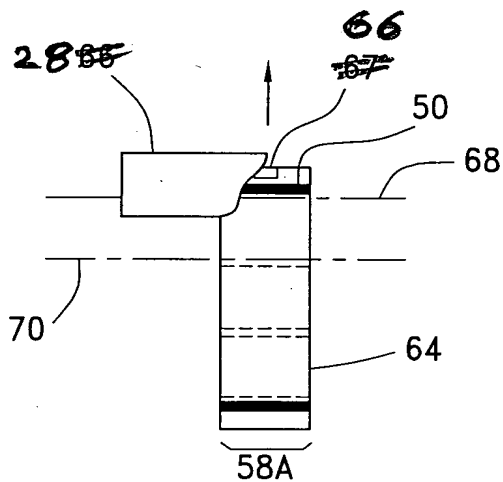


FIG. 6C

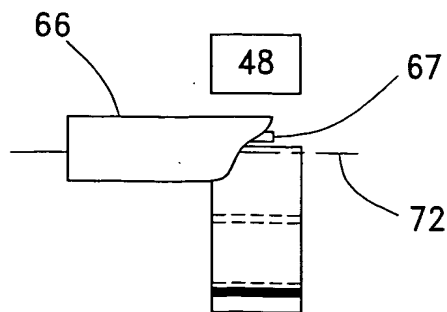
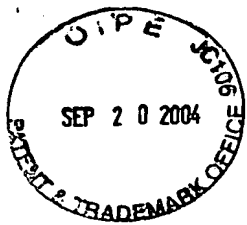


FIG. 6D



Annotated Sheet

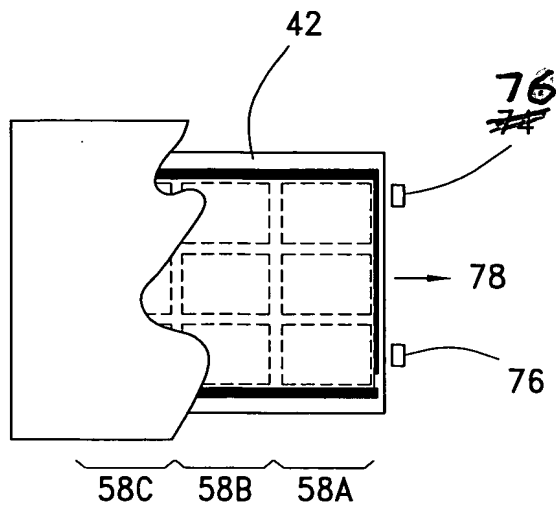


FIG. 7

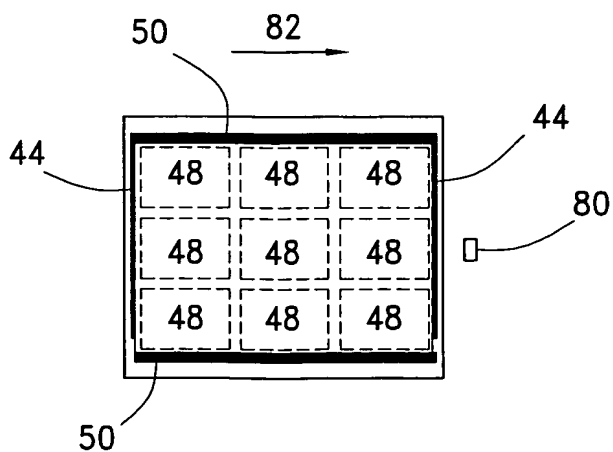


FIG. 8



Annotated Sheet

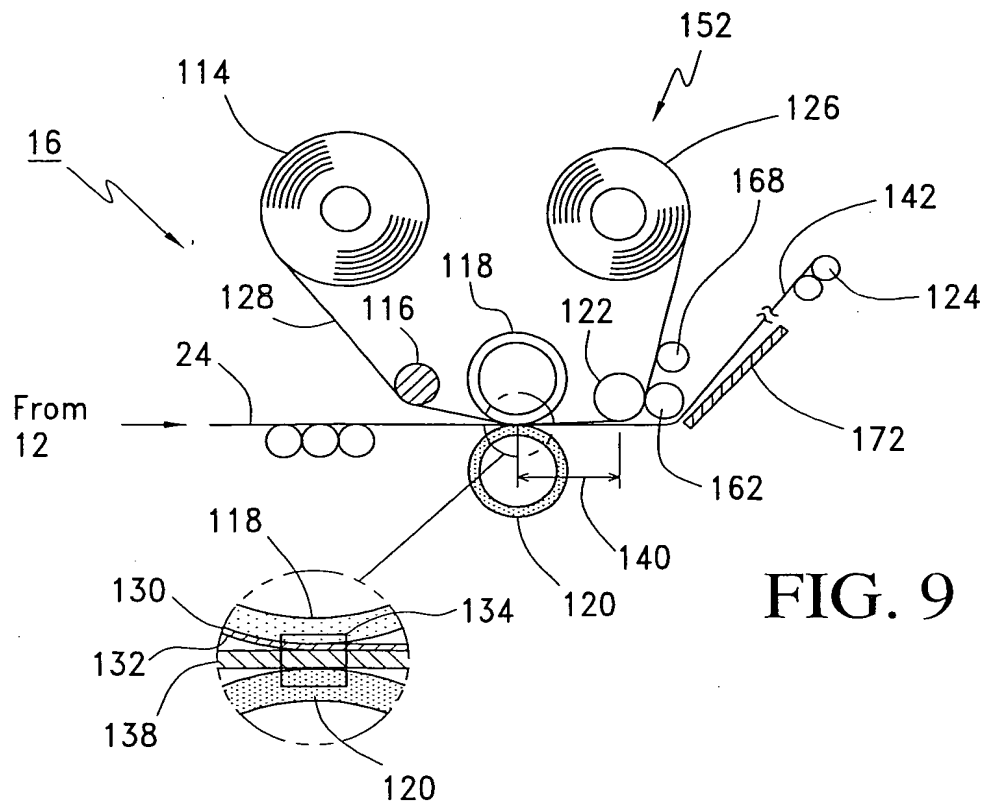


FIG. 10

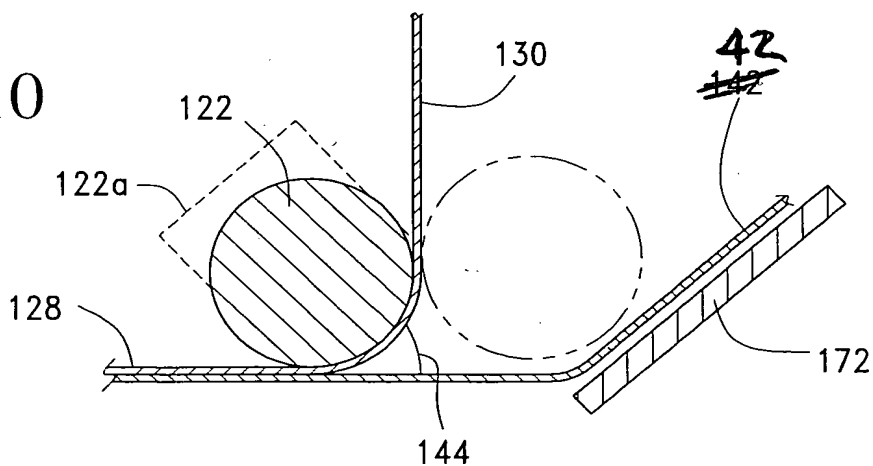
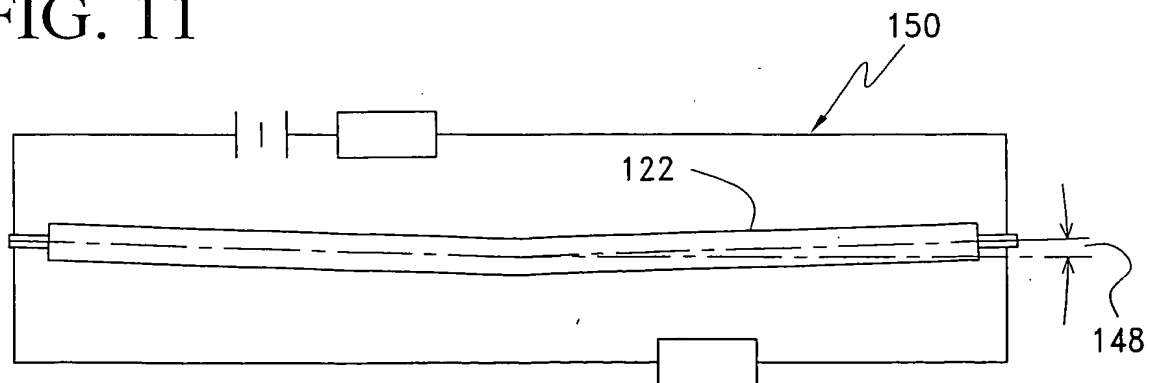


FIG. 11





Annotated Sheet

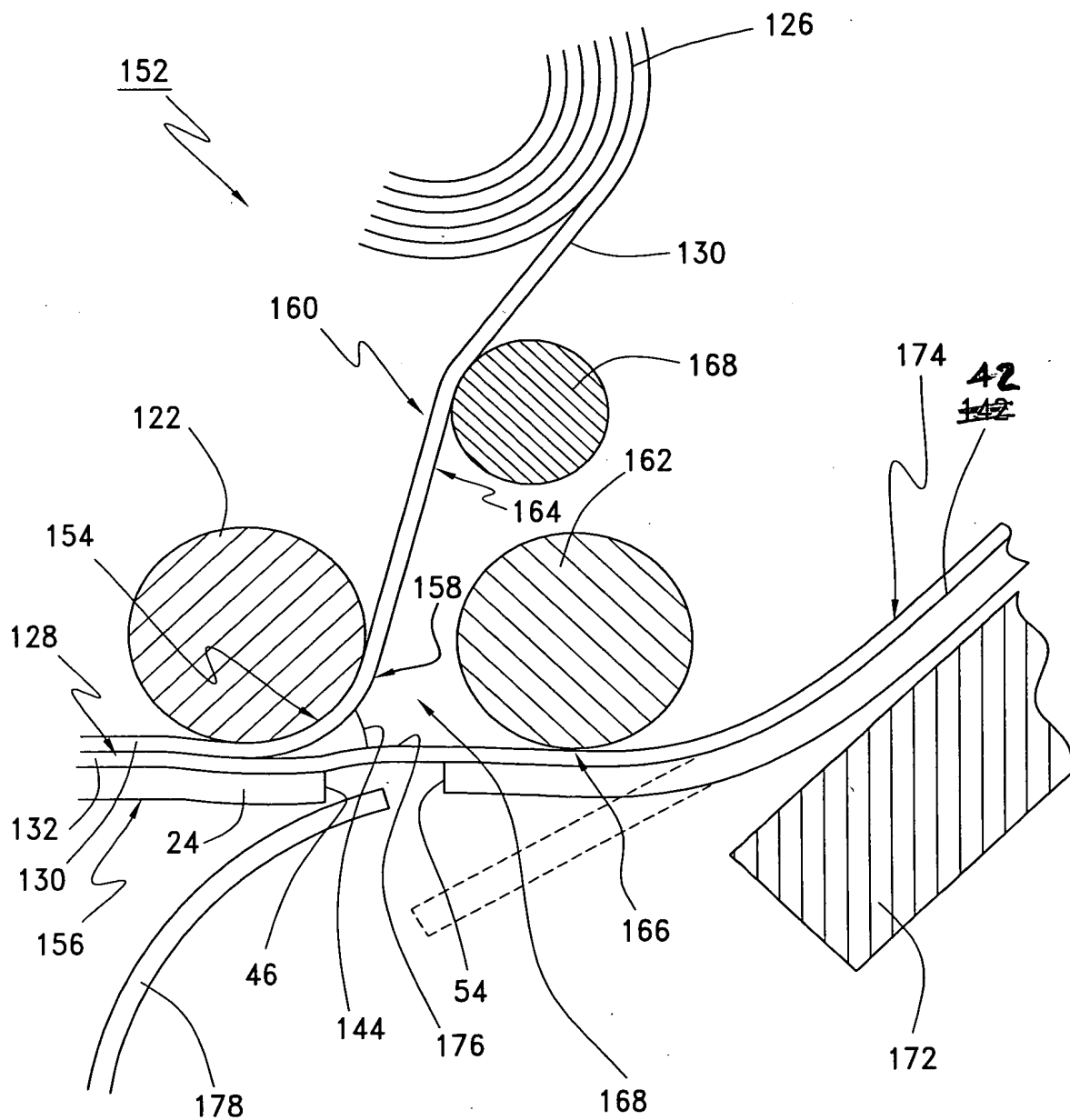


FIG. 12

